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labor of several years have been devoted. The significance of the enterprise, particularly from the viewpoint of its influence upon the further public support and conduct of historical work in the states of the Middle West, cannot fail to be great. This magazine has hitherto refrained from comment upon the enterprise because of a desire to have the completed work at hand before venturing upon a discussion of its several parts. But from a number of causes—the prolonged absence, through ill health, of the general editor, Professor Alvord, the removal of certain of the workers to other fields of activity, the exigencies of the Great War (one of the authors laid down his manuscript, uncompleted, to lend a helping hand in the battles of America fought on the soil of France), most of all, perhaps, to the magnitude and laboriousness of the work undertaken—the centennial year has come and gone and at the close of 1919 three of the six volumes have still to come from the printer. We have concluded, therefore, to present at this time some estimate of the three volumes which are already before the public. The reviews which follow are all by members of the research staff of the State Historical Library. They have been written, however, at different times, over a period of a year or more, and with a view to publication in different historical periodicals. This circumstance will sufficiently explain any lack of collaboration as between the several reviewers which may be in evidence. For permission to reprint the first and second reviews acknowledgments are due to the courtesy respectively of the editors of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* and the *American Historical Review*.

Illinois in 1818. By Solon Justus Buck. [Centennial History of Illinois, introductory volume] (Springfield: Illinois Centennial Commission, 1917. 362 p.)

With praiseworthy foresight on the part of those concerned active preparations for the suitable celebration in 1918 of the centennial of statehood for Illinois were begun several years ago. An important and commendable part of the preparation for the projected observance of the centennial was the preparation, under the editorial supervision of Clarence W. Alvord, of a comprehensive history of Illinois from the earliest times to the present. The history thus projected is to extend to five volumes, each devoted to the exposition of a suitable section of the entire period covered. Preliminary to this enterprise, yet logically a part of it, is the issuance of the volume under review, the specific function of which is to make clear to the reader of 1918 what were the several component elements entering into the Illinois of 1818. Although the volume appears under the auspices of the Illinois Centennial Commission the same

group of men who control the publications of the Illinois historical library are responsible for the present enterprise, and to them is due criticism of it, whether laudatory or the reverse in character.

For the conception of this thoroughgoing historical undertaking in the interests of the state of Illinois, only a commensurate degree of admiration can be entertained. Except for the preliminary volume, the manner of its execution still remains to be revealed. My present task is to evaluate, as correctly as may be, *Illinois in 1818*. That unqualified commendation cannot be accorded the work is cause for genuine regret; that a useful and dignified volume has been added to the lengthening list of mid-western local histories it is a pleasure to record.

Physically considered, the book is well bound and presents an attractive exterior appearance. Within the covers, however, the characteristic workmanship of the public printer is sufficiently evident. Thus, the pagination is carried on the title-page of the volume as well as elsewhere, a matter of trivial importance in itself but indicative of an attitude on the part of printers of public documents with which the reviewer, unfortunately, is all too familiar. The numerous illustrations in the book are for the most part clearly executed; but if any principle governed their selection and arrangement, a careful perusal of the volume has failed to disclose it. At page 138 occur views of a log tavern and of the ruins of Fort de Chartres; the chapter is entitled "The Economic Situation." Facing page 80 are pictures of Gurdon S. Hubbard and Alexander Wolcott. Wolcott was Indian agent at Chicago for a dozen years beginning in 1818, but his name nowhere occurs in the history, and there is no discoverable reason for presenting his picture. Hubbard is several times mentioned in the first chapter, but almost fifty pages intervene between its close and the presenting of his portrait. Other similar examples might be cited. Accompanying the chapter on "The Public Lands" are views of a trapper, a flatboat, a keel boat, etc., while a full page view of "a land grant" occurs in the chapter on "The Convention Campaign," separated by over half the volume from the chapter to which it seems logically to pertain. The view of Chicago in 1820 should be credited to Mrs. Kinzie's well-known volume, *Wau Bun*, from which it is in fact taken.

It is proper to add in this connection that the author is not responsible for the illustrations or for much else that pertains to the volume. Because of Mr. Buck's removal to Minnesota, nearly three years ago, the completion of this work begun by him while at the University of Illinois was subject to numerous difficulties. The effect of these was heightened, doubtless, by the long illness of Mr. Alvord, the editor-in-chief of the centennial history. These facts taken to-

gether fairly account, perhaps, for the one general criticism which the reviewer has to submit; while a thoroughly creditable volume, it does not realize the advance expectations which the work alike of the editor of the series and of the author of the volume fairly justify the historically-minded public in entertaining. That this judgment will be acquiesced in by the author may be inferred from his statements in the preface; it is stated here merely for the benefit of those who have not seen or examined the volume.

The three hundred sixty-two pages of the book comprise eleven chapters, besides an appendix, index, and bibliography. The first six chapters are primarily descriptive; the remaining ones are narrative in character. Chapter I, "The Indians and the Fur Trade," contains a useful account of these subjects which played so important a rôle in the Illinois of 1818. Here, as usually throughout the volume, the dominant note is economic, in marked contrast to the line of interest displayed by such writers as the late Dr. Thwaites. As compared with the latter's characteristic work the present narrative may be equally useful but it is certainly far less inspiring to the reader.

Chapter II deals with "The Public Lands"; chapter III with "Extent of Settlement" in 1818. Useful maps compiled by the author occur in connection with each. Chapters on the pioneers and on economic, social, and political conditions follow in due order. The latter chapter furnishes the transition from the descriptive to the narrative portion of the book. The latter chiefly recounts the political conditions and developments centering around the transformation of the territory of Illinois into a sovereign state of the Union.

No effort has been made to check or correct the author in matters of opinion; a few errors of precise detail have been noted, but since a second edition of the book is improbable, no attempt has been made to list them. The bibliography presented is uncritical and it does not assume to be exhaustive. The style of footnote reference accords well with the general conception of the volume as intended to be scholarly in character yet designed primarily for popular reading. The index seems to be well constructed and reasonably exhaustive.

M. M. QUAlFE

The Frontier State, 1818-1848. By Theodore Calvin Pease. [Centennial History of Illinois, Vol. II.] (Springfield: Illinois Centennial Commission, 1918. 457 p.)

The second volume of the Centennial History of Illinois series is in more than one respect a notable book. Appearing out of order before the first volume has been published, it reveals the scope and